



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Court documents associated with this case, including the complaint, affidavit, and motion for pretrial detention, are available in .pdf format and may be downloaded from the district's Web site at www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

OLATHE MAN CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTING TO ENTICE A MINOR FOR SEX

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Olathe, Kan., man was charged in federal court today with attempting to entice a minor to engage in illicit sex.

Matthew Hunter Leighton, 22, of Olathe, was charged in a criminal complaint filed this afternoon in U.S. District Court in Kansas City.

“We’re alleging that the defendant was unknowingly communicating with an undercover officer,” Graves said. “We are only in the beginning stages of this investigation, but we have asked the court to hold the defendant without bail because we believe he is a threat to the community.”

According to an affidavit filed in support of the federal criminal complaint, **Leighton** made contact several times between July 8 and 19, 2005, with a person he believed to be a 13-year-old girl in Kansas City. In reality, Graves said, the person was an undercover FBI agent. In a series of instant messages, e-mails and telephone calls during that period, the affidavit says, **Leighton** discussed meeting the girl for sex and he arrived to meet her on July 19, 2005.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in the complaint is simply an accusation, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Cynthia L. Phillips. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow